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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/883,647 | 06/18/2001 | William T. Sherrill | 2001US003 | 1838 |

25255 7590 08/11/2003

CLARIANT CORPORATION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT
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CHARLOTTE, NC 28205

EXAMINER

FRANK, ELLIOT L

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
|----------|--------------|

2125

DATE MAILED: 08/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application N .

09/883,647

Applicant(s)

SHERRILL ET AL.

Examiner

Elliot L Frank

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 22 and 23 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 and 24-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 1,4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-21 and 24-29, drawn to a system for color matching, classified in class 700, subclass 90.
- II. Claims 22-23, drawn to a color swatch, classified in class 40, subclass 674.

2. Inventions I. and II. are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I. has separate utility such as paint selection and manufacturing system. Invention II. is a color standard swatch. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. During a telephone conversation with Mr. Scott E. Hanf (38,906) on 10 July 2003 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of group I, claims 1-21 and 24-29. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 22 and 23 withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Specification

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- ✓ a. Page 9, line 8 – There is no item “200” in figure 6 as indicated in the specification.
- ✓ b. Page 9, line 19 – There is no item “215” in figure 6 as indicated in the specification. It is believed that this item should be corrected to “225”.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 2,3,6,7,10,13,14,18,19,21,24 and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- ✗ a. Claims 2,3,6,7,8,10,13,14,18,19,21,24,27 and 28 are rejected for using the language, “and combinations thereof” in the body of the claim. The limitation is not considered to be distinctly claimed because some combinations of the components listed in the claims may not yield the same results as others.

- ✓ b. Claims 8 and 29 are rejected for using the language, “and combinations of both”. There are more than two examples of vendors listed in the claim. Therefore, it is not clear which vendors the term “both” modifies.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims 1-6,9-13,16,17-21 and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Priestley et al. (US 2002/0021439 A1).

The limitations of the aforementioned claims, and the applicable citations in Priestly et al., are as follows:

1. A method for color management by a retailer (page 3, paragraph 0036) comprising the steps of: choosing an engineered color standard (ECS); communicating the ECS to a product vendor (choosing and communicating recited at page 2, paragraphs 0029-0030); having a product produced using the ECS; and controlling a product's color quality by comparing the ECS to the product (page 4, paragraph 0074).

2. A method for color management by a retailer (page 3, paragraph 0036) comprising the steps of: choosing an engineered color standard (ECS), the ECS comprising a component, the component being reflectance data and a dye specification (page 3, paragraphs 0035-0036); communicating the ECS to a product vendor (choosing and communicating recited at page 2, paragraphs 0029-0030);

having a product produced using the ECS; and controlling a color quality of the product by comparing the ECS to the product (page 4, paragraph 0074).

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the ECS further comprises a component being selected from the group consisting of dyestuff, dye specification, dyeing procedures, finishes, finishing procedures, preparation chemicals, preparation processes and combinations thereof (page 3, paragraphs 0035-0036).

Method claims 10,19 and 24 contain the same functional limitations as claim 3, and as a result are anticipated by the same citations in Priestly et al.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein choosing an engineered color standard further comprises: designing a product having a color, communicating the color to a provider of engineered color standards, and analyzing the color to obtain the ECS (page 4, paragraphs 0066-0072).

Method claims 11,17 and 25 contain the same functional limitations as claim 4, and as a result are anticipated by the same citations in Priestly et al.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein analyzing the color further comprises the step of using computer aided color matching techniques (page 4, paragraphs 0057-0058).

Method claims 12,20 and 26 contain the same functional limitations as claim 5, and as a result are anticipated by the same citations in Priestly et al.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein communicating the ECS to the product vendor being selected from the group consisting of: physically sending the ECS,

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electronically sending the ECS, posting the ECS at a website, and combinations thereof (page 2, paragraph 0030).

Method claims 13,16,21 and 27 contain the same functional limitations as claim 6, and as a result are anticipated by the same citations in Priestly et al.

9. A method for color management by a retailer (page 3, paragraph 0036) comprising the steps of: providing an engineered color standard (ECS), the ECS comprising reflectance data, and a dyestuff formula (page 3, paragraphs 0035-0036); communicating the ECS to a product vendor (page 2, paragraphs 0029-0030); having a product produced using the ECS; and controlling a product's color quality by comparing the ECS to the product (page 4, paragraph 0074).

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the requestor being selected from the group consisting of retailers, designers, and combinations thereof, and the requestor not being selected from the group of cut and sew shops, fabric mills, dye house, and combinations thereof (pg. 5, paragraphs 0088-0090).

The limitations of the aforementioned claims are recited in entirety in Priestley et al.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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11. Claims 7,8,14,15,28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Priestley et al (US 2002/0021439 A1) in view of Wasinger et al. (USPN 5,633,722 A).

Claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 1. Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 9. Claims 28 and 29 depend from claim 2. Claims 1,2 and 9 have been shown to be anticipated by Priestley et al.

While Priestley et al. does recite controlling a color characteristic in a manufacturing production system using a color standard (page 4, paragraph 0074), it does not specifically recite the requirements of claims 7 and 8 as follows:

7. The method of claim 1 wherein controlling the product's color by comparing the ECS to the produced product being selected from the group consisting of: visually inspecting, visually inspecting under a single light source, visually inspecting under multiple light sources, electronically inspecting, and combinations thereof.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the product vendor is a textile vendor selected from the group consisting of: a cut and sew shop, a fabric mill, a dye house, or combinations of both.

Wasinger et al., analogous to Priestley in the both systems are used in manufacturing for automated color management (Wasinger et al., column 1, lines 8-15), reads on the additional requirements for claim 7 at column 2, lines 36-61 wherein it describes an in-process color measurement system. Claim 8 is read at column 1, lines 42-61 wherein the industrial application of the invention at a textile factory is described.

Method claims 14 and 28 have the same functional limitations as claim 7, and therefore are obvious in view of the same citations in the combined references.

Method claims 15 and 29 have the same functional limitations as claim 8, and therefore are obvious in view of the same citations in the combined references.

It would have been obvious to have combined the elements of Wasinger et al. into Priestley et al. to have created a process that interprets both the color values and gray scale values compared with comparable target stored values of a standard sample and the process speed is adjusted and ultimately terminated once desired process outputs are reached (Wasinger, column 2, lines 46-61).

12. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Conclusion

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

USPN 5,723,517 A – Campo et al. – Process color measurement system

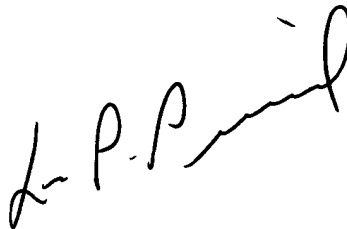
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USPN 6,122,391 A – Ringland et al. – Color standard product searching

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elliot L Frank whose telephone number is (703) 305-5442. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7-4:30, 1st Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo P Picard can be reached on (703) 308-0538. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-5484.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. P. Picard", with a stylized flourish at the end.

ELF
August 6, 2003

LEO PICARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100